

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

### **Claims 1-11. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 12. (Currently Amended)** A composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,
  - b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid, and
  - c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,
- and which is prepared by mixing or milling together said components to obtain the dry powder mixture,
- and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium.

**Claim 13. (Previously presented)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said membrane lipid comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids.

### **Claim 14. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 15. (Previously Presented)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein said biologically active compound is salicylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in an amount of from 10% to 50% by weight.

### **Claim 16. (Cancelled)**

**Claim 17. (Previously Presented)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and is present in an amount of from 10% to 80% by weight.

**Claim 18. (Previously Presented)** The composition as claimed in claim 12, wherein the proportion of said membrane lipid to said biologically active compounds is from 1:20 to 20:1 by weight.

**Claim 19. (Currently amended)** A method of preparing a composition in the form of a homogenous dry powder mixture and which composition consisting essentially of:

- a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,
  - b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid, and
  - c) at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,
- and which forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, which method process comprises ~~either~~ mixing or milling together the components to produce a homogeneous dry powder mixture.

**Claim 20. (Canceled)**

**Claim 21. (Canceled)**

**Claim 22. (Currently Amended)** A dispersion of structured lipid assemblies suspended in a solution consisting essentially of at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid, and at least one biologically active compound that is a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline,

theophylline and theobromine, and that is suitable for use in preparations for topical administration, ~~or as~~ and is prepared by a method which comprises dispersing/dissolving a homogeneous dry powder mixture composition as claimed in claim 12 ~~which composition consists essentially of:~~

- ~~—— a) at least one membrane lipid in an amount of from 5% to 70% by weight,~~
- ~~—— b) at least one biologically active compound that is a carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and/or an  $\alpha$ -ketocarboxylic acid, and~~
- ~~—— c) a xanthine selected from the group consisting of caffeine, aminophylline, theophylline and theobromine,~~

~~and which composition forms structured lipid assemblies when dispersed/dissolved in an aqueous medium, or the components of such a composition, with the said components being dispersed or dissolved either sequentially or simultaneously, in an aqueous medium, and which dispersion is in the form of a cream, gel or lotion formulated for topical administration.~~

**Claim 23. (Canceled)**

**Claim 24. (Previously Presented)** A composition in the form of a homogeneous dry powder mixture which is prepared according to the method of claim 19.

**Claim 25. (Previously Presented)** A method for the preparation of a cream, gel or lotion for topical administration which comprises employing the homogeneous dry powder mixture composition of claim 12 in said cream, gel or lotion.

**Claim 26. (Currently Amended)** The composition as claimed in claim ~~24~~ 12, wherein the xanthine is caffeine and the mean particle size of the powder composition is between 0.1 mm to 5 mm in diameter.